

25 July 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: The DCI

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Herewith is advance copy of book, JOHN F. KENNEDY, PRESIDENT, by Hugh Sides, announced for publication on 19 August 1963 by Atheneum, New York. Sides for several years has been with LIFE and TIME, and has covered Kennedy since 1958 as Senator, Presidential candidate, and President. At present he is the deputy chief of the TIME-LIFE Washington bureau. His book is filled with numerous details on personalities and issues during President Kennedy's first two years in office.
3. CIA, Allen Dulles, General Carter, and John A. McCone figure prominently in the book.
4. Mr. McCone figures in three situations described by Sides -- President Kennedy's selection of him as DCI, in July 1961; McCone's advice to the President on domestic matters, in June 1962; and his participation in the October 1962 Cuban situation:
 - a. Sides notes that newspapers made various speculative errors about President Kennedy's appointments, in 1961, including the "cold print" prediction that Fowler Hamilton would replace Allen Dulles at CIA (p. 101);
 - b. In July 1961, during a swimming-pool conversation with Sides, the President told him of various pending appointments, including McCone as DCI: "But there would be no announcement now, said Kennedy. Any premature leak would make it seem that Allen Dulles was being forced out, (i.e., after the Bay of Pigs incident)... The last thing John Kennedy wanted to do was 'sight him.'" (p. 228). Later in September 1961, during his vacation, Kennedy "came out of hiding" twice, once to name McCone to CIA (p. 255).
 - c. McCone's work as Intelligence head is mentioned in one situation -- the October 1962 Cuban crisis (pp. 328-29, 341). McCone was part of "the backbone of Kennedy's team," and was initially represented by General Marshall S. Carter, his Deputy, who together replaced "the top rung of CIA which had planned the Bay of Pigs" (p. 329). At the President's meeting with Congressional leaders, outlining the quarantine plan, McCone "unraveled the facts which, at first, shocked the men into silence" (p. 341).
 - d. McCone, along with seven other men "with business background and connections," are named by Sides as having been consulted by Kennedy, in June 1962, on the domestic economy and fiscal policies

(p. 311). (Clark Clifford is also in the list.) In another passage (p. 371), Sides concludes that "As in other policy matters, it was virtually impossible (for him) to trace the origins of Kennedy's decisions about the economy to specific persons."

e. One other reference to McCone, noted in the index as appearing on page "259," is missing. It may have something deleted from the final proofs.

5. Other CIA officials are mentioned by Sides as follows:

a. General Carter's participation in the October 1962 crisis deliberations (pp. 326-29).

b. On 18 November 1960, Dulles and Bissell briefed President elect Kennedy on the Cuban plans, with details that "surprised" him (pp. 13, 125); and as the plans proceeded in the weeks ahead, if there were any misgivings and doubts at CIA and the Pentagon, "they did not penetrate the White House" (pp. 125-26). In a footnote, Sides notes Nixon's accusation, in his book, that Kennedy had been told earlier, during the "courtesy" intelligence briefings furnished to the two Presidential candidates; and Dulles' public rejoinder, that Kennedy was not told until 18 November 1960.

c. In February 1961 Dulles told Kennedy of the likelihood of Lumumba's death in the Congo; later, when news of his murder was out, Kennedy asked Salinger to issue a statement on his "great shock" (p. 57).

d. A week before the Cuban landings, in April 1961, Kennedy sent an unnamed "CIA emissary" to Guatemala, to impress on the Cuban rebel leaders the U.S. "condition" that at no time would they get direct help from American armed forces (p. 128).

e. Richard Bissell and General Cabell's protest to Secretary Rusk, at the cancellation of the second air strike over Cuba (p. 130); Cabell's later call to President Kennedy to give him the news of the disaster that followed; and the appearance at later meeting of Allen Dulles with "his pipe and brief case and unflagging smile," are described on pp. 130-32.

f. In the postmortems, on Cuba, the "long rumored" retirement of Dulles was now "certain"; and Bob Kennedy expressed "the ultimate Kennedy compliment" -- that "Dulles is a man. He never complained, he took all the blame on himself." (pp. 146-47).

g. In the immediate aftermath of the Bay of Pigs, Sides says that President Kennedy offered his brother Robert the job of DCI, but "it was not a particularly serious offer." "Bob felt it far too sensitive and covert a position for a Kennedy family man to accept." Navy Secretary John Connally or Maxwell Taylor were preferable (p. 149). Bob Kennedy did, however, establish an office at CIA headquarters, where "virtually every day" he began his working hours (pp. 145-49).

h. Allen Dulles was a guest on the President's yacht in 1961, and "reminded about his sailing days with his brother," John Foster Dulles (p. 221); and at a later visit at Hyannis, Bob and Ethel Kennedy loaded Dulles, "to his delight, in a convertible full of children" (p. 274). Dulles also attended other Presidential meetings, e.g., on Santo Domingo (p. 187) and on the Soviet announcement on resuming nuclear testing (p. 242).

6. Sides acknowledges the assistance, in his book, of the President and several members of his family; but states that "It is not an official account, sanctioned by the White House." He names 33 White House staff members, including (for example) Walt Rostow, Carl Hayden, Sam Balke, and Michael Forrestal; and 16 "outsiders," including (among others) Clark Clifford and James Symington. (pp. ix-x).

/S/ S. J. Grogan

Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

Attachment

cc: D/DCI w/o Attachment
Ex. Dir. w/o Attachment